

§ 3534.2

explore known, unleased deposits of potassium or any potassium compound to obtain geologic, environmental and other pertinent data concerning such deposits.

§ 3534.2 Regulations applicable.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this subpart, the regulations pertaining to land use authorizations under part 2920 of this title shall govern the issuance of exploration licenses.

§ 3534.3 Exploration plan.

All applications for exploration licenses shall include an exploration plan which is in full compliance with § 3532.3-3 of this title. The exploration plan, as approved, shall be attached to, and made a part of, the license.

§ 3534.4 Notice of exploration.

Applicants for exploration licenses shall be required to publish a Notice of Exploration inviting other parties to participate in exploration under the license on a pro rata cost sharing basis.

§ 3534.4-1 Contents of notice.

The Notice of Exploration prepared by the authorized officer and furnished to the applicant shall contain:

- (a) The name and address of the applicant;
- (b) A description of the lands;
- (c) The address of the Bureau office where the exploration plan shall be available for inspection; and
- (d) An invitation to the public to participate in the exploration under the license.

§ 3534.4-2 Publication and posting of notice.

(a) The applicant shall publish the Notice of Exploration once a week for 3 consecutive weeks in at least 1 newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands are located.

(b) The authorized officer shall post the notice in the proper BLM office for 30 days.

§ 3534.4-3 Notice of participation.

Any person who seeks to participate in the exploration program shall notify the authorized officer and the appli-

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cant in writing within 30 days after posting of the Notice of Exploration.

§ 3534.4-4 Decision on plan and participation.

The authorized officer may issue the license naming participants and acreage covered, establishing core hole spacing and resolving any other issue necessary to minimize surface disturbance and inconsistencies between proposed exploration plans.

§ 3534.5 Submission of data.

The licensee shall furnish the authorized officer copies of all data obtained during exploration. All data shall be considered confidential and not made public until the areas involved have been leased or until the authorized officer determines that the data are not exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, whichever occurs first.

§ 3534.6 Modification of exploration plan.

Upon application therefor, a modification of the exploration plan may be approved by the authorized officer.

Subpart 3535—Competitive Leasing

§ 3535.1 Lands subject only to competitive leasing.

(a) Lands available for leasing where prospecting or exploratory work is unnecessary to determine the existence or workability of a valuable deposit of potassium or any potassium compound may be leased only through competitive sale to the qualified bidder who offers the highest acceptable bonus bid, except as provided in parts 3508 and 3536 of this title. A competitive lease sale may be initiated either through an expression of interest or on Bureau motion.

(b) Leases may be offered for lands in or adjacent to Searles Lake, California, without regard to the quantity or quality of the potassium deposit that may be present therein.

§ 3535.2 Surface management agency.

Prior to competitive lease offering, the surface management agency shall be consulted in accordance with § 3500.9